

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – Tompkins County SWCD
October 26, 2015
170 Bostwick Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

Present: David McKenna, Dan Carey, Alan Teeter, Aaron Ristow, Jim Dennis
Staff: Jon Negley, Kym Jackson
Agencies: Justin Olsen, NRCS, Patrick Barry, NRCS

Dan Carey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:31pm. A quorum was present.

12:32 Alan Teeter arrived.

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

David McKenna moved to approve the minutes as presented. Aaron Ristow seconded. No discussion. Carried.

Reports of Other Agencies:

Patrick Barry, NRCS read their written report and it is attached. Patrick also commented they have received approximately 22-23 applications in Tompkins County alone this year. The majority of projects were for high tunnels and forestry conservation plans. Project eligibility should be announced on November 16th.

Financial Report:

Jim D. moved to approve the financial reports for the month of September. A. Teeter seconded. With the payment of some of the last few Hydrilla Program application checks being paid for the season, a brief discussion ensued on the program. The program will be reviewed over the winter for next year's monitoring and subsequent applications. Other open AgNPS and FL-LOWPA contracts were discussed and noted their progress was right on target for completion. J. Dennis motioned to approve the financial reports and A. Teeter seconded. Motion Carried.

J. Dennis moved to approve the October, 2015 Vouchers. Dave McKenna seconded. The repair of the HP Plotter was discussed and the decision to phase it out was made. Additional repairs were not warranted for the amount the equipment is used by the District. Jon will check with the Tompkins County Highway Department to see if they are interested in purchasing it. They have expressed an interest in the past. Jon also presented a membership renewal form from the National Association of Conservation Districts and all Board Members left the decision to renew up to him. Jon is better able to weigh the returns associated with the membership to the contributions made. A vote was taken and the vouchers were approved. Motion carried.

Jim Dennis departed at 1:15
Justin Olsen departed at 1:16

Staff/Project Reports:

Angel Hinickle and Jon Negley provided a written report of work they have been performing the past month and they are attached. James Balyszak was working in the field and was unable to present his report at this time. Jon announced the addition of Eli Robinson helping the District. Eli had submitted an application for the vacant Natural Resource

Specialist position posted by the District but lacked the minimum experience qualifications required and was therefore disapproved. Eli will be assisting the District as a Volunteer in order to gain addition experience and knowledge for his future endeavors. The appropriate paperwork was completed and he has already begun helping Jon with a hydroseeding project. He will also be surveying, helping with records management, and filling in as needed when he is available.

Old Business:

- (Amended) Resolution #2015-38 –Southern Tier Ag Economic Incentive Program (STAEIP). D. McKenna made the motion to approve, A. Teeter seconded. The resolution is being amended as more information is available from NYS. Approximately five to six parties have verbally expressed an interest in the grant funds. This interest was generated without any press releases or formal announcement from the District. A vote was taken and the adoption of (Amended) Resolution No. 2015-38 was accepted. Motion carried.
- Resolution #2015-50 – Adoption of the State of New York Deferred Compensation Plan. A. Teeter made the motion to approve, A. Ristow seconded. The adoption of the NYS Deferred Compensation Plan had already been approved at September's meeting. However, the resolution did not include language required by New York State. A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2015-50 was accepted. Motion carried.

New Business

- Resolution #2015-51 – Allowing use of Contingency funds for Contract #C700993 (Ag Waste Facility Implementation, LLC). A. Ristow made the motion for consideration. A. Teeter seconded. The bid/contract has been followed but there have been project overruns which Russ Beck has been paying. A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2015-51 was accepted. Motion carried.
- Resolution #2015-52 – Adoption of Annual Plan of Work. D. McKenna made the motion to approve, A. Teeter seconded. The Annual Plan of Work is due to NYS November 1st. The earlier submission ensures indemnification from the State. The award from the Committee to fund Project ID #51-1 was discussed. It is unclear of the future of the funds as rumors have surfaced that the farm owner may be selling the property. A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2015-52 was accepted. Motion carried.
- Resolution #2015-53 – NYS District Law (Part B) – 2016 Funding. D. McKenna made the motion to approve, A. Ristow seconded. The District would like to use the funds to host another Tire Collection Event. In the past, this event has gained good partnering with other entities and positive PR for farms, in addition to conserving resources. A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2015-53 was accepted. Motion carried.
- Resolution #2015-54 – Approval of NYS Fiscal Year 2015-2016 FLOWPA Workplan. A. Ristow made the motion to approve, D. McKenna seconded. The idea of using compost socks was discussed. They can be filled with a mulch blower which FINN has offered to demonstrate for a day. Perhaps this can be tied in with outreach? A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2015-53 was accepted. Motion carried.
- Jon reviewed the Announcements/Meetings presented in the agenda and reminded everyone to track their participation to ensure the District's Performance Measures have been met.

D. Carey made a motion to move to Executive Session at 1:52pm to discuss personnel matters, namely the review of resumes received for the job vacancy. A. Ristow seconded. D. Carey moved to adjourn the Executive Session at 2:33pm. Seconded by D. McKenna. Carried.

D. McKenna moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 2:34pm. Seconded by A. Teeter. Carried.

Next meeting date: November 9, 2015, at 12:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kym Jackson, District Clerk

David McKenna, BOD Secretary/Treasurer